SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Is it about this?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Yes, we have given a notice on the same subject. We have given a notice for a discussion on the Kyoto Protocol.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will look into that. *(Interruptions)* Now, Shri Suresh Pachouri to make a *suo motu* statement on the Mumbai High fire *(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I have given a notice on the Mumbai High fire.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; the Minister is making a *suo motu* Statement on this. *(Interruptions)*.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): A statement is being made on that subject.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, a statement is being made on that.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Fire accident in Mumbai High North Platform of O.N.G.C.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): Sir, with your kind permission, on behalf of the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, I am making this *suo motu* statement.

SHRI BALBIR K. PUNJ (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, copies of the statement have not been circulated to the Members. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The statement has come just now.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी: सर, बात यह है कि अभी यह नोटिस मिला है और चूंकि अभी नोटिस मिला है, इसलिए यह स्टेटमेंट पढ़ रहे हैं। इसकी कापी माननीय सदस्यों को डिस्ट्रिब्यूट कर दी जाएगी।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister explain it.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, let the Minister tell the House what happened there.

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: A major fire accident occurred on Mumbai High North (MHN) processing platform at 4.05 P.M. on 27.7.2005 resulting in the loss of the facility. The accident took place when ONGC's multi-purpose support vessel "Samudra Suraksha", under SCI operation, was engaged in a medical evacuation operation. According to available information, the MSV lost control, drifted, and collided with the platform causing a major fire which also engulfed the MSV.

Given the intensity of the fire and consequent damage the platform was abandoned according to a well-rehearsed abandonment drill used in offshore operations, Similarly, personnel from the MSV were evacuated, except for 6 divers who are now undergoing decompression and are expected to survive. Personnel on board the chartered drilling rig in NC Yester deployed in the area were also evacuated. The MHN platform was totally lost in less than 2 hours along with a Pawan hans helicopter positioned on it. ONGC support and supply vessels and three chartered helicopters were quickly mobilized for search and rescue operations. Indian Navy and Coast guards provided prompt assistance by deploying ships and aircrafts.

A total of 384 personnel had to abandon the affected platform and the two vessels. Of them, 351 have been rescued in addition to the 6 divers who are undergoing decompression.

The injured persons were provided first aid by doctors and paramedics immediately on rescue. 129 of those rescued are reaching Mumbai docks today in the morning. The remaining rescued personnel are expected to reach Mumbai by last evening. The search for missing persons is continuing.

So far, 10 personnel are confirmed dead. These include 6 from ONGC and 1 each from the MSV and NC Yester. Two bodies are yet to be identified. On behalf of the nation, I extend my deepest sympathies to be bereaved families. Their rehabilitation will be our duty.

In spite of the severe destruction caused by floods and rains in Mumbai, all possible resources for rescue and relief were mobilized immediately.

This was in spite of the fact that the control centre at Bandra (East) was non-functional as a result of power outage, all communications links were destroyed, and the fleet of 12 chartered helicopters at Juhu helibase was completely grounded because of the flood situation. An emergency control centre was set up immediately to manage the response effectively. CMD, ONGC and other officers of ONGC have already reached Mumbai on 28th early morning by the first civilian flight to land on the opening of Mumbai airport. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, the Minister in-charge is leaving for Mumbai immediately after some time.

Though the loss of the platform would immediately impact 110,000 barrels per day of crude production, it is expected that 70 per cent of this production would be restored over the next 4 weeks. The platform was insured for US$ 195 million and the MSV for US$ 60 million under ONGC's offshore package insurance policy.

CMD, ONGC has constituted an internal enquiry committee to go into the causes of this tragic accident with the help of outside experts.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to the outstanding success of ONGC in carrying out the prescribed safety drill at the site of the accident, as also to extend the nation's grateful thanks to the Navy and the Coast Guards who have mounted a remarkably rapid and extremely successful search and rescue operation. My thanks are also due to Cairn Energy and British Gas who have offered their helicopters for the rescue operations.

As I communicated, Sir, the Minister In-charge is leaving for Mumbai After he returns, he would be able to give more details in this respect.

SHRI BALBIR K. PUNJ: There are certain questions, who need to be answered. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The concerned Minister is not here. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BALBIR K. PUNJ: That is okay. ...*(Interruptions)*... But all the same the House can surely discuss this issue because there are very, very important questions involved in it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Once the Minister goes and comes back ...*(Interruptions)*...

प्रो॰ राम देव भंडारी (बिहार): मंत्री जी आएंगे तो पूछ लीजिएगा।

श्री उपसभापति: यह मैटर यहां खत्म नहीं हुआ है इसके ऊपर आप क्लेरिफिकेशंस पूछ सकते हैं। मिनिस्टर साहब को जाकर वापस आने दीजिए, उसके बाद आप लोग क्लेरिफिकेशंस पूछ लीजिएगा।

SHRI BALBIR K. PUNJ: We can put some queries. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you seek clarifications, who will respond to them? ...*(Interruptions)*... The concerned Minister is not here.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI (Maharashtra): Sir, The Minister of State has already used the term 'a tragic accident'. It means he has already come to the conclusion that no sabotage is involved. The House is concerned because in the present circumstances there is greater likelihood of deliberate sabotage. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BALBIR K. PUNJ: There are definite security drills. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, this multi-utility vessel ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are right. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let us discuss this issue when the Minister comes back. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BALBIR K. PUNJ: The vessel was supposed to maintain certain minimum distance from the platform. Now the question is ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All these are technical points, which the Minister alone can answer. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BALBIR K. PUNJ: There are four Pawan Hans helicopters, which were supposed to be parked there. Can the Minister tell us whether they have been destroyed or whether they were not there at all ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs will not be able to answer that. ...*(Interruptions)*... He has made a statement on behalf of the Minister of Petroleum because he is making a statement in the other House. ... The Parliamentary Affairs Minister has made this statement. ...*(Interruptions)*...

AN HON. MEMBER: He is going to Mumbai. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI (West Bengal): Sir, the rescue operators need to be complimented. I think they have done a remarkable job by saving human lives. I compliment the rescue operators in this ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): The Cost Guards have done a wonderful job. This House should compliment them. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes. Now Special mentions. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Santosh Bagrodia. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Re. Shortage of water in Mumbai due to floods

श्री अबू आसिम आजमी (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति जी, मुंबई की स्थिति के बारे में मैं कुछ कहना चाहता हूं ...(व्यवधान) मुझे इस पर केवल 2 मिनट बोलने दीजिए। सर, यह बहुत ही सीरियस मैटर है। मैं सुबह से लगातार कोशिश कर रहा हूं ...(व्यवधान)

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SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Bombay is virtually in siege. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Government should come forward ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yesterday while replying to the debate on disaster management, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now further information ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री अबू आसिम आजमी: डिप्टी चेयरमैन साहब, मुझे केवल 2 मिनट मुंबई के बारे में बोलने दीजिए। मुझे सुबह से लगातार टेलीफोन आ रहा है कि मुंबई से लगे हुए थाने में मुमरा नामक जगह पर सारे लोग छत पर बैठे हुए हैं, पूरा घर डूब चुका है और पीने के पानी के एक कतरे के लिए लोग चिल्ला रहे हैं लेकिन उनको पीने का पानी नहीं मिल रहा है। कुर्ला में लोग डूब गए हैं और हालत बहुत खराब है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उप सभापति: यह स्थिति पूरी मुंबई में है?

†[ ]Transliteration of Urdu Script.